

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 /049 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2558

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 12151

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, TU, PFOR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE EC-TURKEY ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING

REFS: (A) EC BRUSSELS 11078; (B) EC BRUSSELS 10944

1. ACCORDING TO EC COMMISSION , TURKISH MISSION TO EC, AND PERMDELS, THERE IS SOME PROSPECT OF AN EC-TURKEY ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING AT THE MINISTERIAL-LEVEL IN BRUSSELS NEXT WEEK WHEN EC FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE HERE FOR DECEMBER 13-14 EC COUNCIL MEETING. WE ARE TOLD THAT THE GOT HAS MADE IT CLEAR IT WOULD LIKE AN ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR IN ORDER TO HALT THE DETERIORATION IN EC-TURKISH RELATIONS. THE GOT HAS IMPLIED THAT IT IS NOW WILLING TO CONSIDER AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AT SUCH A MEETING A COMMUNITY PACKAGE marginally improved over that which the GOT had twice rejected earlier this year (EC 9785) by the addition of: (A) one further agricultural concession (probably olives); and (B) more acceptable language on the Turkish worker issue. The community is apparently now willing to agree to give preferential consideration to Turkish workers for jobs which cannot be filled by community nationals, and to promise greater social benefits for Turkish workers already in the community. (According to Commission sources, Germans

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ARE NOW WILLING TO ACCEPT SUCH AN APPROACH TO THE

WORKERS PROBLEM, WHILE THE BRITISH ARE STILL RECALCITRANT
BUT WEAKENING.)

2. THE DECISION ON WHETHER TO HOLD AN ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

MEETING NEXT WEEK IS TO BE MADE AFTER SOUNDINGS TAKEN BY A
NUMBER OF EC FOREIGN MINISTERS WITH TURKISH FOREIGN
MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL ON THE FRINGES OF THE NATO
MINISTERIAL. WE ARE TOLD THAT BEARING
IN MIND THE ABRUPT TURKISH CANCELLATION OF TWO SCHEDULED
ASSOCIATION MEETINGS EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE EC IS UNWILLING
TO MAKE A THIRD TRY UNTIL CAGLAYANGIL SAYS HE IS READY, A
AND PROMISES THAT THE TURKS WILL NOT USE THE SESSION TO
DENIGRATE THE EC OFFER.

3. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER AN EC-TURKISH ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING
IS HELD NEXT WEEK, TURKISH MISSION AND
TURKISH PRESS SOURCES HERE TELL US THAT GOT
IS CONSCIOUSLY RELAXING ITS PRESSURE ON THE EC BECAUSE
PREMIN DEMIREL AND CAGLAYANGIL HAVE DECIDED THAT IT IS
NOT IN TURKEY'S INTEREST TO HAVE EC-TURKISH RELATIONS
DETERIORATE FURTHER AND, MOREOVER, THAT SUCH A DETERIORATION
WOULD NOT BE IN THE JUSTICE PARTY'S INTERESTS
AS THE PRIME MINISTER PREPARES FOR NEXT YEAR'S PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ECBRU12151
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760457-0912
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761255/aaaabvka.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 EC BRUSSELS 11078, 76 EC BRUSSELS 10944
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <06 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE EC-TURKEY ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, TU, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006